

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

In the Claims

Please **AMEND** claims 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36, as shown below.

Please **ADD** new claims 40-49 as follows.

Please **CANCEL** claim 39 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

32. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument seal assembly for mounting to a cannula for the insertion of a surgical instrument, the seal assembly comprising:

an upper body portion having an upper surface that defines a throughbore extending completely through the seal assembly;

a cylindrical wall protector integrally formed with the upper surface at the throughbore to project inwardly into an interior portion of the said upper body portion at the throughbore;

a lower body portion projecting below the upper body portion wherein the said lower body portion defines a cannula receiving opening adapted to mount the seal assembly on the cannula; and

a unitary valve seal comprising[[:]] including:

an upper seal portion having a mounting portion rigidly mounted in the said upper body portion adjacent an interior portion of the said upper body portion, ~~said the~~ interior portion opposing the upper surface, the said upper seal portion being mounted about the throughbore, the said cylindrical wall protector located between the throughbore and upper seal wall and extending substantially into the said upper seal portion; and

a lower seal portion extending from the said upper seal portion, the said lower seal portion being adapted to seal around the surgical instrument.

33. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 32, wherein the said upper body portion further comprises an inner support member extending inwardly into the interior portion of the said upper body.

34. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 32, wherein the inner support member ~~includes~~ engages with a shoulder formed on said lower body portion.

35. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 32, wherein the said lower body portion comprises a transition wall which mates the said upper body portion to the said lower body portion, the said transition wall is sloped.

36. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 35, further comprising a shoulder extending from the said transition wall into an interior portion of the said lower body portion, the said shoulder of the said transition wall mating with the a shoulder of the a inner support member.

37. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 36, further comprising a seal positioned between the shoulder of the inner support member and the shoulder of the transition wall.

38. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 32, wherein the valve seal is formed as a frusto-conical member having a first tapered wall that has a taper different from a second tapered wall.

39. (Cancelled).

40. (New) A surgical instrument seal assembly for mounting to a cannula for insertion of a surgical instrument, the seal assembly comprising:

- an upper body portion having an upper surface that defines a throughbore extending completely through the seal assembly;

- a cylindrical wall protector integrally formed with the upper surface at the throughbore to project inwardly into an interior portion of said upper body portion at the throughbore;

- a lower body portion projecting below the upper body portion wherein said lower body portion defines a cannula receiving opening adapted to mount the seal assembly on the cannula; and

- a unitary valve seal including:

- an upper seal portion having a mounting portion rigidly mounted in said upper body portion adjacent an interior portion of said upper body portion, the interior portion opposing the upper surface, said upper seal portion being mounted about the throughbore, said

cylindrical wall protector located between the throughbore and upper seal wall and extending substantially into said upper seal portion;

a lower seal portion extending from said upper seal portion, said lower seal portion being adapted to seal around the surgical instrument; and

a stay wherein at least a portion of said stay is encapsulated in said unitary valve seal.

41. (New) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 40, wherein said stay is unitarily formed with said lower seal portion.

42. (New) The surgical instrument seal assembly unit of claim 40, wherein said stay is shaped to substantially match said lower seal portion.

43. (New) A surgical instrument seal assembly for mounting to a cannula for insertion of a surgical instrument, the seal assembly comprising:

an upper body portion having an upper surface that defines a throughbore extending completely through the seal assembly;

a cylindrical wall protector integrally formed with the upper surface at the throughbore having a substantially tubular construction that projects inwardly into an interior portion of said upper body portion at the throughbore;

a lower body portion projecting below the upper body portion wherein said lower body portion defines a cannula connection that connects the seal assembly to the cannula; and

a unitary valve seal including:

an upper seal portion having a mounting portion rigidly mounted in said upper body portion adjacent an interior portion of said upper body portion, the interior portion opposing the upper surface, said upper seal portion being mounted about the throughbore, said cylindrical wall protector located between the throughbore and upper seal wall and extending substantially into said upper seal portion; and

a lower seal portion extending from said upper seal portion, said lower seal portion being adapted to seal around the surgical instrument.

44. (New) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 43, wherein said upper body portion further comprises an inner support member extending inwardly into the interior portion of said upper body.

45. (New) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 43, wherein the inner support member engages with a shoulder formed on said lower body portion.

46. (New) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 43, wherein said lower body portion comprises a transition wall which mates said upper body portion to said lower body portion, said transition wall is sloped.

47. (New) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 46, further comprising a shoulder extending from said transition wall into an interior portion of said lower body portion, said shoulder of said transition wall mating with a shoulder of an inner support member.

48. (New) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 47, further comprising a seal positioned between the shoulder of the inner support member and the shoulder of said transition wall.

49. (New) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 43, wherein the valve seal is formed as a frusto-conical member having a first tapered wall that has a taper different from a second tapered wall.